



# CHIRP-N-CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Wintu Audubon Society

Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Shasta  
and eastern portions of Trinity County, California

September / October 2011

We are changing the location of our General and Board Meetings! Construction of the new hotel at the Turtle Bay Exploration Park beginning in early September will eliminate the theatre. We are grateful to Turtle Bay for their generous use of their theatre and are sad to lose this wonderful facility. We feel fortunate, however, to find the very useable and convenient meeting room at the United Way. The United Way is at 2280 Benton Drive, building B, next to the Senior Citizens and River Trail parking lot North of the Diesthorst Bridge.

## September Activities

### Field Trips

**2nd Saturday Bird Walk---Shasta College  
Campus, September 10 @ 8:00 am**

We will search for early fall migrants among the summer residents on the campus of Shasta College. The oak woodlands, wastewater treatment pond, riparian, and fields support a wide variety of species. Meet in Shasta College's north parking lot for this ½ day trip that is open-to-the-public. Connie Word and Bea Currie will lead.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk---Lema Ranch,  
Thursday, September 15 @ 8:00 am**

Lema Ranch, an oasis of open space in Redding, is excellent year-around birding. The ponds, orchards, and fields of the McConnell Foundation Headquarters provide an abundance of bird species. We will look for Common Gallenules, rails, and early fall migrant passerines. This will be a 2-3 hour walk on paved trails with fine public restrooms. We will meet our leader, Linda Aldrich, at the North Parking Lot off Hemmingway Street. Hemmingway Street is across from Mountain View School on Shasta

View Drive. Note  
change to Thursday  
for our mid-week bird  
walk.

**McArthur/Burney  
Falls State Park---  
Saturday, September  
24 @ 7:30 am**

This park in northeastern Shasta County is famous for its falls and nesting Black Swifts. The swifts will have migrated but the Falls, riparian zone along Dry Burney Creek and Lake Britton should provide a wide variety of birds. Bring a lunch, water, and sturdy shoes. We will rendezvous in the parking lot on the South side of the Redding Convention Center. Eastern Shasta County folks can meet us at the Safeway parking lot in Burney at 8:30 am. We should return to Redding in late afternoon. George Horn will lead.

WINTU A.S. CHAPTER MEETINGS  
ARE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF  
THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM at the  
United Way, 2280 Benton Drive,  
Redding.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD ON  
THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT 7:00 PM also at the  
United Way meeting room. All  
members are urged to attend to  
contribute information and new  
ideas.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 13: Gary & Sharon  
Stacey: *A Birder's Holiday in the  
Hawaiian Islands*

October 12: Pat Lind presents the  
film: *River Webs*

## **General Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:00 pm**

### ***A Birder's Holiday in the Hawaiian Islands***

Gary and Sharon Stacey recently spent three weeks in Hawaii and split their time between the Big Island and Kauai. Their presentation will chronicle the areas they visited and birds they saw, many of which were endemics. If time permits, they are also willing to show some the cool things they saw while snorkeling.

## **October Activities**

### **Field Trips**

**Second Saturday Bird Walk---October 8 @ 8:00 am**

We will return to Turtle Bay and Kutras Lake for the fall and winter seasons. A great cross section of waders, raptors, waterfowl, gulls, and winter resident passerines can be seen close up with usually a surprise or two on this half day walk. We will assemble in the parking area behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. This walk with Bea Currie is open to the public and all skill levels of birders are welcome.

**Lower Clear Creek on the Gold Dredge Trail---Saturday, October 22 @ 8:00 am**

Much of the riparian zone along lower Clear Creek, destroyed by placer mining, has been recontoured and revegetated. Now after a decade or more birds are returning. For example, Gary Stacey discovered an Eastern Kingbird there last spring. Frank and Darless Sanderson will lead us along one of the walks through this restoration area. Meet at the Gold Dredge Trail Parking Area, on Clear Creek Road, 3.5 miles from State Route 273. Watch for the BLM sign on the left just beyond Sunrise Landscaping Supplies.

**Local Weekday Bird Walk---Anderson River Park, Thursday, October 27 @ 8:00 am**

This gem of riparian habitat has many groomed trails and will be led by Ken Bachman who lives nearby and has a wealth of experience in the Park. We will assemble at the amphitheater in the park for this half-day outing. **Note, once again,**

the change to Thursday for our mid-week bird walk.

**Please Note:** Wintu Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for accidents. You attend at your own risk. A responsible adult must accompany minors on all outings. Rain cancels all activities.

## **General Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 11 @ 7:00 pm**

### ***River Webs***

This film, *River Webs*, produced by Freshwaters Illustrated 2007, will be presented by Pat Lind. It chronicles the life and work of a Japanese Ecologist, Dr. Shigeru Nakano. His research looked at behavior of fish and ecology of stream forest interactions. He built a mile long green house over a stream and demonstrated the relationship between stream and forest for fish and birds. Pat Lind graduated with a BS in Forestry from HSU (1988) and a MSW CSU Stanislaus (2004). She is active in local environmental issues.

**Please watch your mailbox. You will soon be receiving a letter explaining the financial situation of our chapter, where our funds come from and go to and our recent successes. Please consider responding to this monetary appeal to keep our chapter, alive, active and vibrantly engaged in fulfilling our mission!**

## **Trip Reports**

**2nd Saturday Birdwalk at Shasta College, May 14**

Linda Aldrich reports that nine birders, later joined by a tenth, birded the college campus on a chilly but sunny morning. They saw a total of 42 species, the most noteworthy of which were

Wilson's Warbler, Hooded Oriole and Warbling Vireo. Summer nesters had migrated in and they enjoyed seeing Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Kingbird as well as several species of swallows.

**Camp-out at Lassen Volcanic National Park—  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 22-24.**

The Joint Campout, hosted by Wintu Audubon, was again enjoyable. Seven campers from Wintu were joined by five from Redwood Region (Seven from Redwood Region had planned to attend but, unfortunately, Jim and Donna Clark suffered vehicle damage en route and had to stop in Redding for repairs.) Ten campers from Altacal Audubon occupied a neighboring site in the Lost Creek Group Camp Ground. The weather was a welcome change for all three groups---an opportunity to cool off for Wintu and Altacal and to warm up for Redwood Region.

We birded around the camp ground on Friday afternoon. On Saturday morning Wintu campers and most of the Redwood Region folks birded Manzanita Lake with four Wintu members who came up from Redding for the day. Altacal hiked the trail to Paradise Meadows. On Sunday morning we went our separate ways---some drove up the park road as far as the Bumpass Hell parking lot, stopping to bird around Summit Lake en route. The birds were a bit hard to find--mostly because few were singing, occupied instead by tending to their nestlings. Highlights were a male Western Tanager and Grey Jays that hung around the camp site affording great views without binoculars and fledgling Brown Creepers fed by the adults. We assembled a list of 50 species.

**Return of the Salmon Festival---October 15 at  
the Coleman National Fish Hatchery**

View salmon spawning operations, a salmon aquarium, natural resource information booths and much more. Wintu Audubon will staff a booth from 9 am to 4 pm. Contact Bea Currie Phone: 243-3955 for details for lending a hand.

**2011-2012 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS &  
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT--George Horn 244-0581  
VICE-PRESIDENT--Esther Cox 474-4379  
TREASURER--Connie Word 245-0846  
RECORDING SECTY--Gary Stacey 241-5586  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY--Beatrice Currie 243-3955

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

PROGRAMS--Linda Aldrich 223-5341  
EDUCATION--Dan Greaney 276-9693 and Don Goodykoontz 474-1655  
CONSERVATION--Claudia Yerion 241-7156  
NEWSLETTER--Bill Oliver 941-7741  
WEBMASTER--Larry Jordan 472-3131  
MEMBERSHIP--*Vacant*  
PUBLICITY--Frank and Darliss Sanderson 242-8770

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Ken Bachman, Shelly Carasaro, John Coon, Rose LeRoque, Nola Wade, Janet Wall.

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Valley Birding  
Symposium**

Hey birders! One of the premier birding festivals in the U.S. is in Stockton, practically in our backyard! It will be held at the Hilton in Stockton, Nov. 17-20, 2011.

This year's evening programs feature Ron LeValley on "The Writings of William Leon Dawson—a California Bird Pioneer". Dawson's writings are humorous, sad, spiritual, satirical, and inspirational. Ron's presentation and photography captures much of this feeling. Saturday Night's keynote program is by Jeff Gordon on: "10 Birds that Changed Birding." There is the "spark" bird--the one that turned you from a casual observer into an avowed birdwatcher, willing to endure long miles and early hours in search of new species. Add in workshops, field trips, Birder's Market, and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! For more information or registration go to the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org) or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net)